

## Welcome SRD Controls



SRD Controls Members with Organizer Alexander

more comfortable with the idea that the most suitable choice for this group was our standard construction agreement, with recognized changes that fit the Employer's work. SRD Owner David Sime and Company Negotiator Gary Moser set out early this year to cull the items like "working around a helicopter or underground, and classifications like high-voltage splicer" with the acknowledgment if any of these situations or worker classifications became relevant to the Employer's business we would

Last August South Island Organizer Russ Alexander was contacted by one of the workers at SRD Controls looking to see if we could help them with their workforce needs. They were being paid average non-union wages, and benefits.

After a short meeting Russ started signing cards and within a week, he had 100% of the employees interested in becoming a union shop.

We filed an application with the Labour Relations Board of BC to represent the employees in September and had a short hearing. Because all the workers signed with us, there wasn't much left for the lawyers to argue over. The Board awarded the certification to allow us to bargain on behalf of the workers at this smaller controls shop who work primarily on the South Island wiring Reliable Controls products.

Although SRD and their hired negotiator wanted a stand-alone collective agreement built just for them. After a couple months of open conversations developing our new relationship, and I would be completely remiss if I didn't acknowledge two newer union shop owners Adam Molnar from ARRM Electric and Mike Lucas from Aurora Electric for taking the time out of their busy schedules to meet with SRD Owner David Sime to explain the relationship that they've built with Local 230. SRD became

sit down in advance to thread these back into the collective agreement. We finalized the SRD Controls ratification of their agreement with the employees in mid-June. With the new wage and benefits coming into effect in July, we swore in the employees and welcomed them into our Local Union. They agreed to what is about a 16% wage increase in year 1, and 5% in year two, as well as another 2.8% in their Vacation Pay, and to contribute to the Western JETS Training. All together almost a 20% increase in year one.

Every non-union electrical worker throughout Vancouver Island should recognize, the IBEW can help them in a relatively quick and painless way to achieve a better financial future without disruption. That the IBEW is the Right Choice for Electrical Workers.

I'm looking forward to sitting with this Employer next year, to see if there are ways to improve upon the agreed 5%. As we have agreed to a meeting to discuss their first year, the work, and any further changes in a mutual and beneficial way. Organizing isn't easy but when you have a committed team, employer and workforce, it is the best approach to helping workers with safer jobs, better education, a better standard of living, and closer to financial freedom.

## Volume 3: 2025

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### Member's Dues Auto-Deposit

To send dues payment via e-Transfer, email [dues@ibew230.org](mailto:dues@ibew230.org)

Nonworking dues rate as of July 1st, 2025:

"A" Members = \$58/month  
"BA" Members = \$34/month

### Business Hours

Business Office: 8:00am - 5:00pm  
Training Centre: 8:00am - 5:00pm

### Upcoming Training

**Aug 19-20** - 2024 CEC Update  
**Sept 9-10** - 2024 CEC Update  
**Sept 20** - Conduit Bending Lvl 1 - Victoria  
**Sept 21** - Conduit Bending Lvl 3 - Victoria  
**Oct 4, 5** - Residential Wiring - Victoria

### CONSTRUCTION SAFETY TRAINING

#### Victoria Courses:

Aug 11, 18 - Fall Pro  
Sept 3, 22 - Fall Pro  
Aug 5, 6, 14, 16 - MEWP  
Sept 5, 11, 18, 27 - MEWP

#### Nanaimo Courses:

Aug 19, 26 - Fall Protection  
Sept 4, 16 - Fall Pro  
Aug 7, 9, 12, 21 - MEWP  
Sept 6, 9, 17, 25 - MEWP

#### Courtenay Courses:

Sept 23 - Fall Pro

[www.ibew230.org](http://www.ibew230.org)

# BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT



**Phil Venoit**  
Business Manager/  
Financial Secretary

I've been attending the BC's Labour Tariff Committee Meetings, some of the items I put on the agenda to discuss were;

Construction procurement - As the BC Government moves towards a Canadian product procurement model, we're ensuring construction procurement contracts include similar language. This will help to save and secure BC's resource, manufacturing and forestry jobs, some of which will be the first who will get hit with Tariffs.

Employment Insurance Appeals - prior to Stephen Harper's Conservative Government's Decision to shut down the Board of Referees, there was a legal responsibility to have answers for those filing an appeal within thirty days from the date of the hearing. I understand today that it has increased, up to 9 months. That can't happen in the best of times let alone heading towards a possible downturn in employment. This is what will unnecessarily remove Canadians out of their homes and into the streets.

Food Security - Vancouver Island receives 80% of its food off-Island. We need to reconsider how we develop our own food sources closer to home and implement a strategy that is productive and sustainable.

Canadian/ U.S. Relations Narrative - needs to be specific. Canada's tariff fight is NOT with the American people; it's with the Billionaire Oligarchy Class in the U.S. and President Donald Trump. We have tens of thousands of American tourists visiting BC spending billions of their hard-earned dollars, we need to make sure they are continuing to be welcomed. This source of international revenue is very important to our economy, especially at this point in time.

Canadian Building Trades Conference  
I attended the Canadian Building Trades Conference held again in Ottawa, this is the first time I've attended since prior to COVID and it was worthwhile on so many levels. We received North American Building Trades President Sean McGarvey on his campaign to push President Trump to back down on Canadian Tariffs and how damaging that was becoming on the citizens of both our nations.

We heard from a Premier's Panel made up of previous Ontario, Alberta and Newfoundland Premiers Dalton McGuinty, Jason Kenney, and Dwight Ball (respectively) on their take on the federal election outcome, our way forward as a Nation, as well as observations on how they would be dealing with Trump's Tariffs if they were still Premier of their provinces.

We had sessions with pollsters, political pundits, and wrapped it up with Chantal Hebert. To hear about the interest in business to get moving on major energy projects again is refreshing, to see big business chomping at the bit to get our resource industry products to market. Initially increasing horsepower at our pipeline compressor stations to increase oil output, then looking to build another pipeline to Churchill Manitoba and using the Hudson Bay to ship oil & gas to Western Europe. Moving on the 2nd Phase of Canada LNG, increasing nuclear work production for communities around the world.

Coal was discovered in 1709 and overtook Wood as the top energy source by 1900. Oil was discovered in 1860 and overtook Coal as the top energy source in 1964. Regardless of electric, solar, hydrogen and other alternate sources, we are obviously going to need LNG and oil for some time to come, and if we don't sell it, sooner or later someone is just going to come along and take it.

The arc of energy usage has increased throughout the population growth of human history. That puts BC, Alberta, and Newfoundland in an incredibly powerful position over the near future. Getting our rare earth minerals out of the ground, ambitious federal housing market plans, and so much more.

Our Sister BC Building Trades Executive Director, Brynn Bourke won a Safety Award for all her hard work on bringing Better Sanitation to BC's Construction Industry. And, I was able to attend with new Prime Minister Mark Carney on Election Night.

Lastly, on the Federal Election Outcome.  
Look, I would be the first to understand that some of you are not happy with the results of this election. That's the case with every election, and this Election was highly emotionally charged, and tribal. Some members may think I'm off, but from my perspective, as the Business Manager of this Local Union, the outcome in the federal election was about right.

The Liberals were robbed of a majority (by 3, they will have to look towards the NDP, the Bloc, and the one Green Party member to pass anything controversial. With the Greens and NDP without money, and NDP without a Leader, the Bloc and Conservatives with their Leadership and identity in question, and with the consistent threats from Trump, there will likely be internal political stability for the next two years. From a Job Interview perspective, AND from my point of view, that's what this election was about. Prime Minister Mark Carney was the right choice and the best person for the job and challenges in front of our country right now. PM Carney has the right education, professionalism, diplomacy and contacts that if we can stay out of economic collapse it will be due to Carney's financial cunning.



**Prime Minister Carney**

Apprentices will have their grants and scholarships back soon. I heard that loud and clear from the new Prime Minister and the previous Minister of Jobs Steven MacKinnon. The government's focus will be to get our resources to market, and build affordable housing, this will create construction jobs all across this country. They will focus on expanding military spending and that should result in marine work as well as an increase in border security. I will continue to identify good green market jobs which should also attract good paying union jobs, as very little fanfare was made about it, but federal funding on green jobs must be paid out at the same rates as our construction collective agreement.

There may be some early hiccups in manufacturing, and in other industries late next year and/or possibly early 2027 to get us past the regulatory regime and civil work, but soon after, it should break into a good amount of work for our members for years to come. I've been identifying different projects with a focus on them to get us through that pinch point.

# Notice of Changes to the Joint Electrical Industry's Welfare Plan

As many of you know by now, the Trustees of our Joint Electrical Industry's Welfare Plan appointed Convyta Partners to take over as the day to day administrator for the Plan. The change took effect on June 1, 2025. Convyta's office is located in Burnaby, BC and works with members and Trustees of negotiated cost pension and benefit plans. This change was necessary due to the closure of D.A. Townley, and to a high-degree, I'm happy to say the transition has been (almost) seamless.

**Please note there will be no intended reductions or changes to your coverage or to your dependent's coverage.** The new providers will be:

PROVIDER	BENEFIT
Greenshield	Extended Health
Greenshield	Dental
The Cooperators	Weekly Indemnity
Manulife	Long Term Disability
Manulife	Life & Optional Life Insurance
Industrial Alliance	AD&D
TELUS Health	Virtual Care
TELUS Health	Counselling Services

Local 230 Members of the JEIW Plan should have received a Welcome Package from GreenShield, including additional plan information and new ID cards for your extended health and dental benefits. If you **have not received** this, please contact GreenShield's Customer Service Centre at 1-888-525-7587 for assistance obtaining your new member ID number.

You can use the toll-free number or email address to contact your Plan Administrator for information or questions regarding your benefits eligibility. This phone line will be available **Monday to Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm**  
**Toll-free Number: 1-844-551-4239**  
**Email: [IBEW@convyta.com](mailto:IBEW@convyta.com)**

## PLAN ADMINISTRATION - CONVYTA

Convyta is your primary contact for questions about eligibility, accessing forms (beneficiary, dependent changes, disability claims), and enquiries about self-payment.

**Link to Fillable Claims Form:** <https://greenshieldplus.zendesk.com/hc/en-ca/articles/35939608417172-Download-claims-submission-forms>

## HEALTH AND DENTAL BENEFITS - GREENSHIELD

Your health and dental benefits coverage will not change under the new plan with GreenShield. However, your Member ID will change and where and how you submit claims will change. Your Welcome Package will include a new GreenShield ID card(s) and more information about claims submission and how to access other digital options through GreenShield+. Your benefit card will also be available electronically on the GreenShield website. Claims may be submitted online using GreenShield's online claims submission. If you prefer, you may still submit a paper claim.

## OUT-OF-PROVINCE/ COUNTRY EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRAVEL COVERAGE

Prior to June 1, 2025, the Out-of-Country Emergency Medical Travel Coverage was provided as a separate benefit. Starting June 1, this coverage will be provided by GreenShield under your

extended health benefits plan. The access information is on your GreenShield ID Card. GreenShield under your extended health benefits plan. The access information is on your GreenShield ID Card.

## WEEKLY INDEMNITY BENEFITS - THE COOPERATORS

Your coverage for weekly indemnity will remain the same. However, claims will now be processed and paid by the Cooperators. If you become disabled, without access to Medical EI, please reach out to Convyta to access claim forms and for assistance with filing your claim. If you are currently on disability, you will receive a separate communication regarding the transition of your claim. Open claims will be transferred to a Cooperators claims manager and payments made after June 1 will be issued by the Cooperators. If you have any questions regarding an open or recurring claim or you have a new claim, please reach out to Convyta at 1-844-551-4239 or 1-844-551-IBEW.

## OZEMPIC-TYPE MEDICATION COVERAGE FOR TYPE 2 DIABETES

Some members have raised concerns that Convyta has been denying their Ozempic or diabetes medication. That isn't the case, the BC Ministry of Health is looking at the inappropriate use of some British Columbian's using this medication as a weight loss product, which is causing shortages for diabetics. This drug and others like Mounjaro and Trulicity, have a side effect of making the recipient feel full and therefore limiting hunger, which aids in weight loss. Sales of these drugs are being curbed for non-residents, non-Canadian citizens who must have a valid Canadian prescription and must be in person at the pharmacy to pick up the medication. Any extra paperwork necessary is intended to simply verify you are diabetic in an effort that your prescribed drugs are available to you when you need them. But there's good news on the horizon for the folks using one of these semaglutide products for weight loss. There'll be generic brands available early next year.

## THE JOINT BURSARY PLAN

The Directors met with the pursuit of making apprentices finances a little better while attending school. We reviewed our legal obligations on providing a larger bursary to apprentices finishing school each year. We believe we have found a legal loophole dialed in to provide more than \$500 and now have a positive answer back on one outstanding legal hiccup. The Bursary value will be going up to \$750 for each school year, backdated for anyone who finished school after May 1st, 2025. We have drafted a new form, and will be on the Training Page of our Website, as well you can receive it by contacting [Apprenticeship@IBEW230.org](mailto:Apprenticeship@IBEW230.org)

## RRSP & PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS MOVE IN-HOUSE

With the closure of D.A. Townley, Local 230 took the opportunity to bring our group retirement savings administration in house. This allows us to directly work with contractors and make sure contributions are correct and uploaded into your Manulife accounts on time. For any issues or questions regarding RRSP or Pension contributions, contact Allie at [admin@ibew230.org](mailto:admin@ibew230.org)

# Congratulations to our new Red Seal Electricians!



**Top Left:** Brayden W., Logan W., Aidan D.

**Middle Left:** Kevin K., President, Raj Takhar presents Local 230 Youth Committee Chair, Austin Foster with his Red Seal Certificate, Terrance D.

**Bottom Left:** Joseph D., Ryan D., Ethan H.